



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER – 2011

Contents:

**Chairman's Report. Treasurer's Report.
Exhibition Reports. Membership News.
Art at St Lawrence Church.
Reviews of recent demonstrations.
AAS Art Group-The Maltings.
Remainder of Winter Demonstrations and
Details of April Workshop (back page).
Selborne Arts & Crafts Exhibition.**



Five Days in October

On Wednesday morning the 5th October at 8.30am the rustling of paper, the popping of bubble wrap and the slamming of car boots were to be heard to the east of the town. Parcels tied with string, plastic bags, odd shaped items wrapped in tea cloths and artworks of all shapes and sizes were carried into the doors of the Assembly Rooms. The main hall was undergoing a transformation, black screens were being erected by straining muscles, hooks were being strung and Velcro unwrapped.

A team of voluntary members carefully checked the submitted works of art against pre-prepared lists; porters then carried each item into the once bare hall.

Kaye Garrett directed the hanging, and channelled different subjects to specific areas to be arranged for viewing. Mike Bush was carefully setting-up the 3D work for display on covered tables against the far wall. By lunchtime the paintings were hung and the greeting cards were displayed in spinning carousels.

The cards, prepared by Marjorie Hart, announcing the details of each item were then allocated to exhibits. Catalogues were carried from the printers; the voting slips for the 'Best Painting in Exhibition' were made available and the 'Jack Riviere Trophy' was displayed at the entrance, to be received by the artist who gained the majority of the votes.



By 7.30pm the visitors for the Private Preview began to arrive. At 8pm Mike Cross, known to our Society having been our Chairman several years ago, officially opened our 80th Annual Exhibition. Wine and admiration flowed throughout.

During the five days the exhibition was open there was a busy through channel of visitors, thanks to the

advertising undertaken by Ann Sayer, Kate Davis, Steve Cook and many others. This ensured Alton residents and individuals from the surrounding area, were able to come and view the 200 plus works of art by members, who had been busy creating them over the past 12 months awaiting this high spot in the Art Society's calendar.

The stage area of the Assembly Rooms was vibrant and bright with the huge range of artistic works entered into the Children's Exhibition. (*report page 2*).

The exhibition finally closed on Sunday 9th October, buyers and owners queued to collect their artworks. The screens were dismantled. The unsold greeting cards were sorted and handed back to the artists who had entered them, this was easier than previous years, thanks to Bob Dewar and Sally Cox.

The only important item left was to announce the winner of 'The Best Painting in the Exhibition', won by Jane Pascoe Absolom for her wonderful portrait 'Handsome Amur' (above).

An extraordinary team of volunteer members of the Society attended in various roles throughout the exhibition, thank you to all of you.

A special thank you to Marjorie Hart, this will be her last year for cataloguing and preparing the display cards for the entries to the Exhibition. Marjorie has undertaken this important job for many years; her competence and reliability will be missed.

John Hearn (Chairman) & Ann Sayer

**Small cheques for card sales
are enclosed, for those who
were not at the
demonstration on 15th Oct to collect
them from the Treasurer**

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE SHOP
The Alton Art Society extends
thanks to the shop for allowing their window to be
used for the display of paintings and greeting cards,
by our members, during the week of our exhibition
and afterwards. Several paintings sold and the cards
were in great demand.
This was a significant advertisement for the
Exhibition.
Many thanks.

Treasurer's Report - Exhibition 2011

There was even more uncertainty this year than in 2010, this was reflected in the number of exhibits sold. Oddly enough, the average value of sales was higher than last year, but insufficient to reach break-even. This is how we compared with the previous two years:

Year	Artwork Sales	No. sold / No. entered			Net Profit Or (Loss)
		Paintings	Folios	3D Works	
	£				
2009	5162	34/225	17/103	13/46	£463
2010	2736	20/230	13/118	8/43	(£4)
2011	1925	13/206	4/89	2/54	(£21)

Total sales were less than half of last year but the average price paid for paintings was £121, as compared with £81 in 2010. Sales of folios and 3D works were less than one third of last year. Because of the low numbers prices paid were very variable - £39 for folios as against £50 in 2010 and £100 for 3D works as against £59 last year.

The simplified card sales form was a most successful change in that the number of cards recorded as having been sold tallied closely with the end count. There have been quite large discrepancies in previous years. As most of you are aware, artists are paid on the basis of the difference between the number of cards entered and those remaining at the end of the Exhibition.

Bob Dewar (Treasurer)

Membership News November 2011 – Jennifer Lines - Membership Secretary.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society, several had sent in their application having just visited the Exhibition, so we hope they are inspired to exhibit next year.

New Members

Sheila Nxumelo-Loxley Alton
Christiane Hayles Bordon
Margaret Bird Alton
K Jones Farnham
Julie Morgan Upper Farringdon
Paul Jarmain Whitehill
N V K Parambil Alton

George Brown Alton
Leah Foulds Kingsley
Baudine Vadenberg Basingstoke
Angela Gregory Medstead
John Young Alton
Claire Drewe Four Marks

Re-joining Members

Penny Absolom Alton
Douglas & Liz Pelling Alton

Wessex Cancer Charity Christmas

Cards:

Well done to Sheila Dawson and Jennifer Lines, whose designs were chosen this year. The cards will be on sale in Alton Library at 25p ea

A reminder letter is enclosed in this posting for the 45 members who have not yet paid their subscriptions. I am looking forward to hearing from them.

How did you vote? Our visitors obviously appreciate the wide range of subjects, styles and media of our exhibits. It was pleasing to find that of our 89 exhibitors the high number of 70 people had become someone's favourite, so we must all keep going.

1st – Jane Pascoe Absolom - 'Handsome Amur'

2nd Peter Forey – 'Bosham Moorings'

Joint 3rd: Penny Absolom – 'Wild', Kate Davis – 'Violins',

Toni Goffe – 'Greenwich Sailing Club' Janet Hamilton – 'A View of Venice'.

Children's Exhibition – October 2011

Artwork submitted by 12 schools, from pre-school to Year 11, were displayed on the stage at the Assembly Rooms during the exhibition. Individual works in 3D, including dragons and papier-mâché heads, were at the front of the stage. Also, a number of pieces using coloured threads. A raku fired 'Earth, Wind, Fire and Water' sculpture was spotlighted at the bottom of the stairs, created by years 5 and 6 from Butts Primary School. 'Peacock' (R) was assembled by handprints of children from St Lawrence Playgroup.

There were a multitude of portraits from a number of schools. The winning portrait was by Paul Jarmain from year 9-11 Eggar's School. Paul also received free membership for a year to Alton Art Society, enabling him to join in many events.

The work was judged by Pam Jones, who's painting 'Puffin Parade' was chosen as a background to the AAS 80th Exhibition poster. Pam had previously organised the Children's Exhibition for many years. It was very difficult for her to decide on the winning work from each group. Every piece of artwork was studied and commented on.

The Chairman of the Society, John Hearn, presented the prizes and certificates, with Kate Davis alongside him, on Saturday 8th October. The Society is very grateful to Alton Town Council who awarded a grant to purchase the children's prizes, which were vouchers to be used in a local shop.

Kate Davis (Organiser of the Children's Exhibition)



Facebook: The AAS now have both a Facebook page and a Facebook Group. The Facebook Page is open to all users and is another place where we announce news and events. To join the Facebook group you will need to sign up for an account www.facebook.com (free).

Then, on our website www.altonart.org.uk, scroll down and click the Facebook button to find us, follow the link to our group and then click the "Ask to Join" button.

Anything you post will be visible to all other group members, but will not be seen by the wider Facebook community, not everyone wants the world to see member's entries. Please join us on-line at our website www.altonart.org.uk and on our Facebook Gallery pages, we welcome your comments, feedback, suggestions and queries, contact me by email at webmaster@altonart.org.uk.

Gail Williams – Website Manager

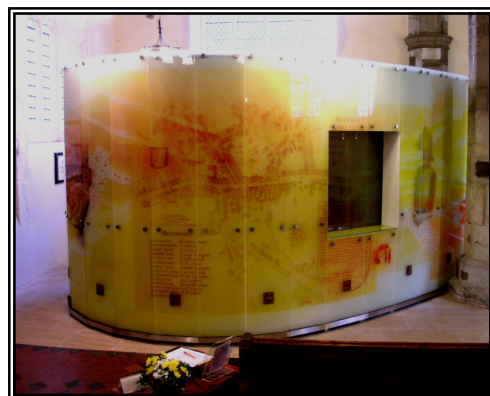


A Special Artwork in Alton

An unusual new piece of art has appeared in Alton, at St Lawrence's Church. This is the glass cladding on a structure inside the church.

Over two years ago, the Parish Church Council decided to install facilities inside the building. The church's architect, Simon Goddard, designed a one-storey, oval structure, which was to include two toilets (one disabled), a kitchenette, store and small community room. The challenge he faced was to place these facilities inside a Grade 1 Listed building in a modern but sympathetic manner. The project was opened on 16th October and has already been awarded the John Ambrose Award by the Alton Society, given to a new community facility in the town.

The outside of the structure provided a major opportunity to commission a work of art from a glass artist. After short-listing three candidates, Derek Hunt from Limelight Studios, Leicestershire, was chosen. Facing the same challenges as Simon Goddard, with the constraints and opportunities of the Listed building, he has produced a fascinating *tour de force*. On a surface 3 metres tall and winding 12 metres around the structure, Derek has combined images from the church's architecture, from the town's history and from Christian culture. Founded in a swirling and liquid design, the images appear, carrying the eye from one to the next. The more one looks, the more appears and the more questions arise.



If you have not yet seen the works, both of the architect and the artist, please visit St Lawrence's. The church is open during daylight hours and you are welcome to wander around. I hope that, like me, you will be fascinated and delighted both by the building and its new glass.

Robin Lees - Church Warden at St Lawrence

Demonstration by Chris Christoforou – 'Living with Big Cats' - 17th September

This was different from our usual painting demonstrations; the audience were shown slides of animals living in the wild. One of Chris Christoforou's field trips was to East Africa (Kenya and Tanzania) where he filmed exotic animals in their own habitat. This seemed a very dangerous pursuit, some animals proved more than savage.



Chris also paints wildlife and captures the mood of the hunter and the hunted in his work. Some of his paintings were included in the slide show. Chris has sold paintings at Sotheby's and Christie's Wildlife Art Auctions.

A field trip to the lions of the Serengeti Plains and the tigers in Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, India, added to his portfolio. www.artnet.com/artists/chris-christoforou

Ann Sayer

30-Minute Oil's – Melanie Cambridge – 22nd October

Having produced a book called '30 Minute Oils' Melanie came along to prove it could be done! Her attitude was to paint looser and get on with it! Big brushes were recommended, *Rosemary and Co Shiraz nylon brushes* in particular, these hold their shape well.

Working on acrylic gesso primed *mdf* a rough sketch of a tree was drawn in charcoal, Melanie then began by painting the tree trunk with almost dry paint, adding the dark leaves with a flat brush, then more yellow onto the sunlit leaves. The sky was then added, making 'sky holes' into the wet paint of the tree allowing blending to occur. As the sky neared the ground the colour was lightened to a *creamy white**, a mixture of *Naples Yellow and Titanium white**.

The subject of the second painting was a seascape. The sky was painted from the blue colours, (*Sevres blue* is Melanie's preferred blue). Dark clouds were added, pushing in flecks to soften the edges. With the *creamy colour** the clouds were 'iced' along the top edges, being careful not to make floating sheep! Having painted the sea, the rigger brush, with the *creamy colour**, was used to flick sparkles on the water. White lines were flicked down giving the impression of far away sails.

The second half began with a board loosely washed with *yellow ochre acrylic*. Swiftly drawing in a windbreak and a tent, in charcoal, Melanie began a busy seaside scene. Boldly stroking in the stripes on the windbreak with alternating colours, just touching on the surface allowing the lines to appear broken. A vibrant *turquoise* hut, with a *cobalt* side in shadow, was painted alongside the windbreak. The figures were added next, fear is then taken out of painting people, these can be changed later without spoiling the painting. Suggestions of the eyes and limbs were added, the limbs as strokes to the joints.

Melanie quickly blocked in the sea and sand mixing blues and white, with a touch of *burnt sienna* for a distant blue, adding more tones of the same colours to produce the waves. Dark stripes with white nearer the shoreline were added, using *turquoise* underneath and *Naples yellow* for waves. Foam was added at the changes of colour, in white and the *'creamy colour'*. For the wave washed sand Melanie, used the pale sky colour with a tiny touch of *Sevres blue*. The sand was painted in *raw sienna* as a base with white tinted with *chrome yellow and burnt sienna*. Melanie added reflections, using a finger to smudge in some areas.

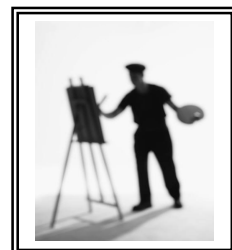


Oil paints dry at different rates, the colours after 2-3 days may lose their vibrancy. By applying 'Retouching Varnish' the colour will enliven again, the varnish can also be painted over, once dry!

Website: www.melaniecambridge.com '30 Minute Oils' by Melanie Cambridge is now in the AAS Library **Kate Davis**



ALTON ART SOCIETY PAINTING GROUP
EVERY THURSDAY
IN THE MALTINGS TARGET ROOM
(DOWNSTAIRS) LIFT AVAILABLE
1PM – 4PM
COST £ 3 PER SESSION - COME AND JOIN A RELAXED
FRIENDLY GROUP - ANY SUBJECT - ANY MEDIUM.
Last before Xmas 15/12/11 – First after 12/1/2012
FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT KATE DAVIS: 01420 543458



NOTICEBOARD.....

Christmas in Selborne

Saturday 3rd Dec
5pm-9pm
Christmas Celebrations
in
Selborne Village
(Stalls and festive
attractions)

Sunday 4 Dec
11am-5pm
Art & Craft Sale
at the Village Hall
Details and entry form from:
Tricia Oliver: 01420 511338
Email:
triciaoliver178@btinternet.com

REMAINDER OF THE WINTER PROGRAMME 2011/12
17 Dec (*Mulled Wine & Mince pies will be served
in the interval*)

21 Jan	Liz Seward Relfe	Mixed Media
18 Feb	Chris Forsey	Line & Wash
17 Mar	Tiffany Budd	Pastels
	AAS AGM - 2pm	followed by;
	Heidi Robinson	Stained Glass

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
QUALITY DEMONSTRATORS FOR THE 2012/13 WINTER
PROGRAMME**
CONTACT ANNABEL YOUNG: 01420 85553

The 'feedback forms' after each demonstration are
proving very useful for planning future events.
Thank you

Fine Framing

4 Weyside Park Newman Lane
Alton GU34 2PJ

Offers 10% Discount to all fully
paid up members of AAS.
Membership Card for the current
year

must be available.

Discount applies to picture
framing for new frames only.

Contact: Steve Cook - Proprietor
01420 82324

www.fine-framing.co.uk

SPRING WORKSHOP

DETAILS

Saturday 21st April 2012

PORTRAITURE

tutored by Anne Chadwick*

Venue - Four Marks Village Hall
10am until 4pm.

The choice of media is up to
the artist, please bring whatever
you feel comfortable with.

Anne* will send through a
suggested list of colours
to use nearer the date.

(remember to bring a packed lunch)

Coffee & tea will be available.

More details in Winter Newsletter
(February)

Cost TBA.

Contact: Annabel Young

Tel: 01420 85553

Editorial Comment

Another well presented exhibition has ended,
many of our members helped to make this event a
success.

We all know it's about teamwork and all pulling together.
The Summer Newsletter was the first point of contact to
lift everything off the ground. Kate Davis used her
'insider information' to ensure the envelopes, with all the
enclosures, did not exceed the second class postal
charge.

Thank you also to Jennifer Lines, who fills the envelopes
with the correct number of enclosures for each address.
Thank you to everyone involved.

This is your newsletter for communication to other
members of our Society. Please let me know of anything
you would like

published in the New Year. In particular local exhibitions,
success stories, or any other information you would like
to share. Please contact me (details below), not forgetting
to include a contact name, telephone number and an
email address (where possible).

You will find updates between newsletters on our website:
www.altonart.org.uk

This newsletter will also be downloaded there – in colour.
The closing date for the next newsletter is 2nd Feb 2012
The Editor's decision is final for all entries.

Ann Sayer – Editor

1 Gauvain Close Alton GU34 2SB

Telephone: 01420 84526

Email: roseanne8SAY@aol.com

Art Classes

St Andrew's Church Hall Medstead

Mon 7pm-9pm

Wed: 11pm-1pm or 2pm-4pm

Tutor: Tana Riviere

Relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Winter term commences

Mon 10/Wed 12 Jan 2012

Phone Ann Sayer

for further details 01420 84526

The Little Green Dragon Shop

The shop would appear to be closed.

Please let me know if you have any
information on this.

Ann Sayer-01420 84526

Pullinger's Farnham offer discount to Art Society
members. Membership cards must be shown at
the sales desk.

